

means by which the free market maximizes human happiness.

Currently, consumers are less than sovereign in the education "market." Funding decisions are increasingly controlled by the federal government. Because "he who pays the piper calls the tune," public, and even private schools, are paying greater attention to the dictates of federal "educrats" while ignoring the wishes of the parents to an ever-greater degree. As such, the lack of consumer sovereignty in education is destroying parental control of education and replacing it with state control.

Loss of control is a key reason why so many of America's parents express dissatisfaction with the educational system. According to a study by The Polling Company, over 70% of all Americans support education tax credits! This is just one of numerous studies and public opinion polls showing that Americans want Congress to get the federal bureaucracy out of the schoolroom and give parents more control over their children's education.

Today, Congress can fulfill the wishes of the American people for greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective only of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The \$3,000 tax credit will make a better education affordable for millions of parents. Mr. Speaker, many parents who would choose to send their children to private, religious, or parochial schools are unable to afford the tuition, in large part because of the enormous tax burden imposed on the American family by Washington.

The Family Education Freedom Act also benefits parents who choose to send their children to public schools. Parents of children in public schools may use this credit to help improve their local schools by helping finance the purchase of educational tools such as computers or to ensure their local schools can offer enriching extracurricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services, such as tutoring, for their children.

Increasing parental control of education is superior to funneling more federal tax dollars, followed by greater federal control, into the schools. According to a recent Manhattan Institute study of the effects of state policies promoting parental control over education, a minimal increase in parental control boosts students' average SAT verbal score by 21 points and students' SAT math score by 22 points! The Manhattan Institute study also found that increasing parental control of education is the best way to improve student performance on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests.

Clearly, enactment of the Family Education Freedom Act is the best thing this Congress could do to improve public education. Furthermore, a greater reliance on parental expenditures rather than government tax dollars will help make the public schools into true community schools that reflect the wishes of parents and the interests of the students.

The Family Education Freedom Act will also aid those parents who choose to educate their

children at home. Home schooling has become an increasingly popular, and successful, method of educating children. Home schooled children out-perform their public school peers by 30 to 37 percentile points across all subjects on nationally standardized achievement exams. Home schooling parents spend thousands of dollars annually, in addition to the wages forgone by the spouse who forgoes outside employment, in order to educate their children in the loving environment of the home.

Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, this bill is about freedom. Parental control of child rearing, especially education, is one of the bulwarks of liberty. No nation can remain free when the state has greater influence over the knowledge and values transmitted to children than the family.

By moving to restore the primacy of parents to education, the Family Education Freedom Act will not only improve America's education, it will restore a parent's right to choose how best to educate one's own child, a fundamental freedom that has been eroded by the increase in federal education expenditures and the corresponding decrease in the ability of parents to provide for their children's education out of their own pockets. I call on all my colleagues to join me in allowing parents to devote more of their resources to their children's education and less to feed the wasteful Washington bureaucracy by supporting the Family Education Freedom Act.

REMEMBERING MR. TOM STUBBS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I now honor the life of a great man and friend of Colorado, Tom Stubbs. Tragically, Tom passed away earlier this month. As family and friends remember Tom, I would like to take this brief moment to pay tribute to a man whose life touched many. Clearly, he is deserving of the recognition, praise and remembrance of this body.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing Tom can attest to the irreplaceable zeal for life that he constantly exuded. As a recent story in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel described it, "Tom displayed a passion and relentless dedication for life's adventures." An apt description for a man who lived his life to the fullest each and every day.

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Tom was an accomplished artist who made his living selling paintings of natural landscapes, predominantly from southwestern Colorado and Arizona. If you appreciate artistic scenes from the American West, Tom's works are truly a site to behold. One such work was selected as a finalist in the "Arts for the Parks" exhibition. The piece was on display around the country in 1992. In addition to selling his own works, Tom taught Figure Drawing and Advanced and Pastel Drawing on and off at Mesa State College for about a decade.

A Flint, Michigan native who lived in Grand Junction for the better part of 30 years, Tom expressed his love for the outdoors in many ways other than painting. According to the Daily Sentinel, Tom was a "local legend in

mountain running circles," who was also a world class climber. He was also a talented bicycle racer, skier, swimmer, and surfer. Socially, Tom was part of a close-knit group of friends who spent a great deal of their personal time experiencing the natural marvels of Colorado and beyond. Tom had unique insight into what a wonderful place the American West is.

Although Tom's life came to an end all too suddenly, his memory will long endure. Survived by his parents, Nancy and Bill, his brothers, Mike, Tim and Matthew, his sisters, Kathy Ziola, Karen Stubbs and Laura Stubbs, and countless friends, including my friend Christopher Tomlinson, Tom's life will not soon be forgotten by those fortunate enough to have known him. And what a memorable life it was.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, the Grand Junction community has lost a wonderful friend. Though he's gone, Tom Stubbs will always hold a special place in all of our hearts.

TERMINATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN FUND

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on January 3, 2001, I introduced H.R. 191, legislation to terminate the Presidential Election Campaign Fund.

Campaign finance reform will surely be part of the agenda for 107th Congress. I believe that one of the most important campaign reforms we can advance is to end taxpayer funded presidential elections. As many in this body know, the current system offers partial public financing to eligible candidates running in presidential primaries and completely subsidizes the campaigns of major party nominees in the general election. The fund also supports political party conventions. The program essentially combines public refunding with limitations on contributions and expenditures. To receive funds, candidates must meet fundraising requirements and agree to limit campaign spending. The funds are derived from a voluntary tax checkoff.

A post-Watergate reform, the Presidential Election Campaign Fund, was intended to respond to the cynical effects of money on the political process and restore public confidence in our elections. More specifically, supporters of public financing believed it would correct perceived problems in the presidential election process, such as the disproportionate influence of wealthy contributors and the demands of fundraising that can keep candidates from conveying their views to the public.

Beyond my basic philosophical objections to publicly-financed elections, which forces taxpayers to finance candidates whom they oppose, I believe the fund has not achieved its goal. Clearly, public funding has not stemmed the decline in confidence in the political system. Moreover, the public has overwhelmingly rejected the campaign funds as is illustrated by declining participation rates. The most recent figures available show that rates have gone from a high of 28.7% on 1980 tax returns to 12.5% on 1997 returns. In fact, public participation has decreased so dramatically

that in 1993, Congress trebled the checkoff amount from \$1 to \$3 to counter a shortfall in the system.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is also important to note that modern-day campaigns and financing tend to render the checkoff-funding system somewhat ineffective. As it was conceived, the fund's creators believed that the program's spending limits would be an asset to campaigns. However, the statute does not limit independent spending, which can supplement a candidate's campaign treasury. As a result, the program is essentially restricting the speech of some elements of our society. In addition, the fund was created to alleviate the fundraising burden for primary candidates. While well intentioned, this component has had the opposite effect because primary candidates must try to raise funds in matchable \$250 increments and may not accept more than \$1,000 from an individual contributor. Consequently, fundraising requires more time and more resources.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in six elections—1976 through 1996—\$887 million was distributed under the fund. Some of the recipients of these precious tax dollars clearly lacked electoral credibility and appeal. For example, Lyndon LaRouch, who served a prison term for fraud and tax law violations, received more than \$2.5 million. Given the public's overwhelming rejection of the system and the fact that tax dollars should be directed to more worthy government programs, I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort to terminate the presidential Election Campaign Fund by cosponsoring H.R. 191.

HONORING PAUL BESSELIEVRE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Besselievre, the incoming President of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in California's Central Valley.

Paul served as Chief Executive Officer of the Fresno Chamber during the past year. His experience as C.E.O. gives Paul great insight into the goals of the Fresno Chamber during 2001.

Paul graduated from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1964 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Growing up in South Dakota, Paul had a natural love for the outdoors. It was this passion that brought him to the Fresno area. He opened his own business in Fresno and is currently the President/Owner of Valley Trane Heating and Air Conditioning.

Paul has been highly active in his community. His past and present membership in professional organizations includes: Board Member, Workforce Development Board; Board Member, Fresno Business Council; Board Member, United Way; Board Member/Secretary, Fresno Rotary; Board Member, Community Food Bank; Life Member, Optimist Society; Member, Yosemite Lakes Park Community Church; Member, American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers.

The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce is the second largest Chamber in California. They currently have over 2,300 members. Their sole mission is to promote business and enhance the economic cultural well being of the people in Fresno County.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Paul Besselievre as the incoming President of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Paul Besselievre many more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND GERARD A. PISANI, HONOREE OF THE RICHARD RUTKOWSKI ASSO- CIATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Gerard A. Pisani, who will be honored by the Richard Rutkowski Association for his exceptional contributions to the community of Bayonne, NJ on January 20, 2001.

In America, the wealth and prosperity of our communities is not based solely on economic indicators. In fact, the most important indicator for the social well being of our neighborhoods and communities is the important contribution of community leaders; and today, I rise to recognize a truly great leader.

Pastor Pisani attended Wheaton College and Taylor University, and completed his theological training at Nyack Missionary College. He was ordained to the ministry in the Baptist church in 1962. Pastor Pisani finished his requirements to become an ordained Priest in the Episcopal Church on October 15, 1966, and was appointed the first Vicar of St. Gabriel's Church, where he served until he became the Rector of Christ Church in Pompton Lakes. In 1974, he came to Trinity Parish in Bergen Point, where he is currently the pastor.

In addition, Pastor Pisani is the president of Windmill Alliance, Inc., an organization that consists of volunteers from several local churches and temples and works in cooperation with leaders from area businesses and industry to provide for the needs of the community. The following groups are involved: The Windmill Center, a daily work activity center for disabled adults; Supportive Living, a residence program for disabled adults; Highways, a program providing support for the needy; the Umbrella Project, a proposed program to provide housing for women and children in need; and Supportive Employment, which provides career development, job training, and employment for adults with special needs.

Pastor Pisani has served on the Board of the Bayonne Medical Center, and is presently serving on the Bioethics Committee of the Bayonne Hospital as co-chair of the education committee. He is also chaplain of the Bayonne Kiwanis Club, the Bayonne Fire Department, and secretary/treasurer of the Bayonne Interfaith Clergy Association. He has received numerous awards from these and other organizations.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Reverend Gerard A. Pisani. Through his compassion and dedication, he

has made great contributions to the community of Bayonne. His leadership and hard work are a great asset and an example for us all.

TRIBUTE TO BETTY FITZPATRICK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a remarkable woman, Betty Fitzpatrick, for her remarkable devotion to her community.

Betty is being honored on January 31, 2001, by the National Association of School Nurses as the Nurse Administrator of the Year. Over the last eleven years, Betty has served as the Director of Health Services for Jefferson County Schools in Golden, Colorado. Betty oversees 136 schools in the Jefferson County area, where she has spent her life as an advocate for Colorado's youth. The depth of Betty's contributions goes much deeper than nursing. Her portfolio is witness to the difference she has made in the life of others: she has been the president and treasurer of her state nursing association, a prolific author, an advocate for legislation, grant writer, and a national presenter. Betty's contributions to the citizens of Colorado are great in number of deserve the recognition of this body.

Betty is an extraordinary citizen. While her skills as a nurse have been tested daily throughout her accomplished career, on one day—a day our country will never forget—she was put to the test and taken to the limits. On April 20, 1999, an incomprehensible tragedy took place on the grounds of one of Betty's schools—Columbine High School. She was notified of the tragedy within minutes of its occurrence, and with hesitation she enacted an emergency plan and led the charge to assist the war-torn school.

Betty is a tribute to nurses everywhere. Colleagues describe Betty as a quite nurse who handles herself with grace. Her enthusiasm to her work and her compassion is deserving of far more than this Congressional tribute. Ultimately, the highest compliment that she can ever receive is the trust and love of her patients and the community. That, Mr. Speaker, is exactly what she has earned.

Betty is an inspiration for us all and for all these reasons she is deserving of this honor. It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Betty for her dedication and service to her community over the years. She has worked hard for her community and state, giving mightily of herself to her neighbors.

For that, Betty, we are all profoundly grateful.

SAFER AMERICA FOR EVERYONE'S CHILDREN ACT (SAFE CHILDREN ACT), H.R. 255

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 255, the Safer America for Everyone's Children Act, or Safe Children Act. The